

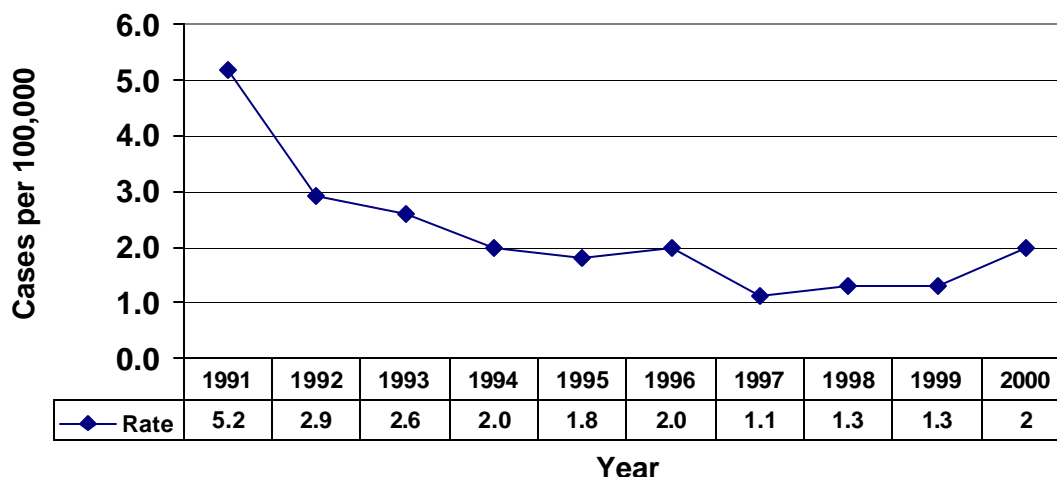
HEPATITIS B, ACUTE

Acute Hepatitis B is an illness with insidious onset of symptoms including anorexia, vague abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, sometimes arthralgias and rash, often progressing to jaundice. The hepatitis B virus (HBV) is transmitted from person to person primarily through exposure to blood or other body fluids of infected persons. Infection can occur through sexual contact, injecting drug use, occupational exposure in healthcare settings, perinatal exposure, and household contact with a carrier. Only a small proportion of infections are clinically recognized. Five to ten percent of infected adults and ninety percent of infected infants become carriers. These individuals have a significantly higher risk of developing some form of serious liver disease in the future.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc) positive (if done) or a positive test for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg).
- IgM anti-HAV negative (if done).

**Acute Hepatitis B Incidence, Kentucky
1991-2000**



Incidence in Kentucky 2000

Number of Cases	81
Rate per 100,000	2.0

Rate by Gender (per 100,000)

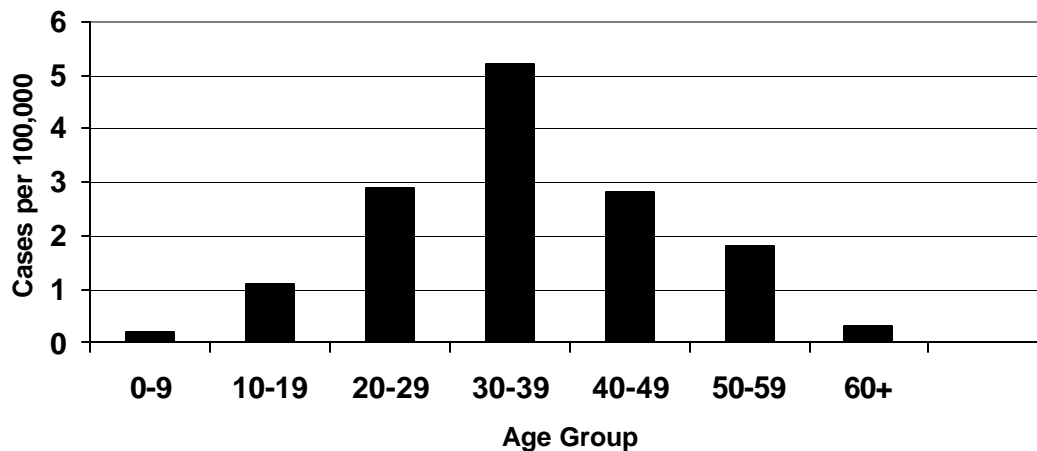
Female	1.4
Male	2.8

Rate by Race (per 100,000)

White	1.3
Black	2.8

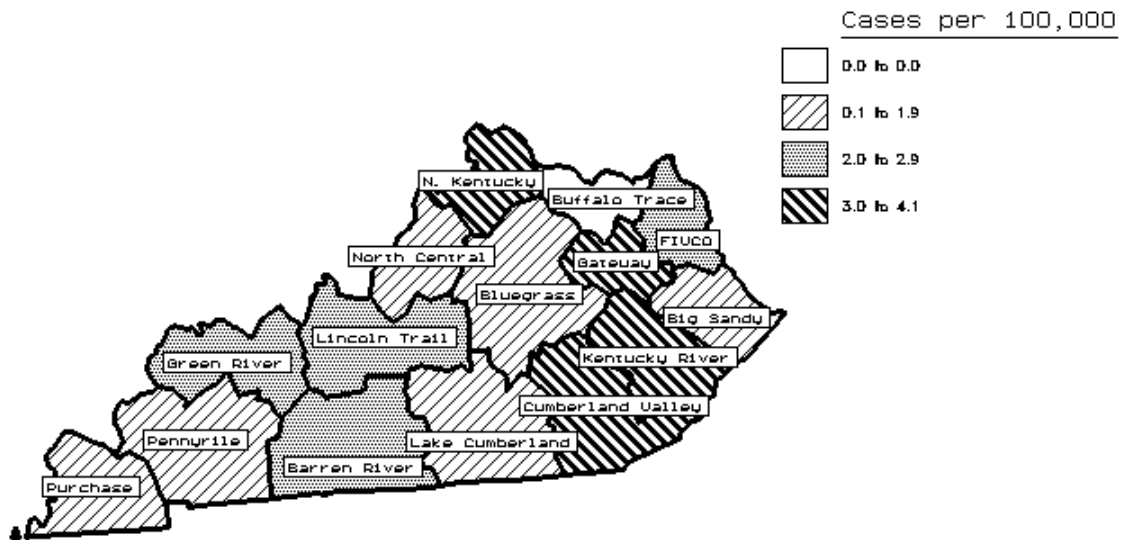
The race was unknown for 26 (32%) of the cases.

Acute Hepatitis B Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 2000



The 30-39 year age group reported the highest incidence (5.2 per 100,000), followed by the 20-29 year age group.

Acute Hepatitis B by District, Kentucky 2000



The Gateway District reported the highest annual incidence of 4.1 cases per 100,000, followed by the Northern Kentucky District and Kentucky River District, each with 3.2 cases per 100,000.